County Borough of Tynemouth

FORTY-SEVENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

on the

Medical Inspection of School Children

1955

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INDEX

	Page
Average Heights and Weights	7
Co-ordination	5
Defective Hearing	10
Defective Vision and Squint	9
Diphtheria Immunisation	6
Ear Defects	10
Eye Diseases	9
Eye Testing Clinic	9
Findings of Medical Inspection	7
Follow Up Investigations	8
Handicapped Pupils	13
Infectious Diseases	12
Lovaine House Special Day School—Report of Head Mistress	18
Medical Inspections	6
Minor Ailments	8
Miscellaneous Medical Examinations	19
Nose and Throat Defects	10
Nursery Schools	19
Orthoptic Clinic	9
Orthopædic and Postural Defects	11
Other Defects Treated	11
Report of School Dental Officer	12
Ringworm	9
Scabies (Itch)	8
School Meals and Milk	6
Speech Therapy	14
Statistical Tables	20—24
Surprise Cleanliness Surveys	8
Tynemouth High (Grammar) School	19
Tynemouth Open-Air Day School and Lovaine House Special Day School	15
Tynemouth Open-Air Day School—Report of Head Mistress	15
Uncleanliness—Head	7

School Medical Department,
Public Health Office,
Preston Road,
NORTH SHIELDS.
19.4.56.

To The Chairman and Members of the
County Borough of Tynemouth Education Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Forty-seventh Annual Report on the medical inspection and treatment of school children during the year 1955, as required by the Ministry of Education under Regulation 13 of the School Health Service and Handicapped Pupils Regulations, 1953.

Dr. Margaret B. Steel, Assistant Medical Officer of Health, was responsible for the medical work in connection with handicapped children, also for the work in the Tynemouth Open-Air Day School and the Lovaine House Special Day School for educationally sub-normal children. Dr. Steel also held clinics in order to deal with special cases. On an average, she has devoted three sessions per week to the School Health Service.

Periodic inspections and re-inspections in the schools were carried out by two part-time Medical Officers, Dr. A. E. White and Dr. Elspeth C. Spencer. Dr. White devoted three sessions per week to periodic inspections and re-inspections in the schools and one session per week to work in the school clinic. Dr. Spencer devoted her two sessions to periodic inspections and re-inspections in the schools.

Two Consultant Ophthalmologists, Mr. H. Vernon Ingram and Mr. J. S. Arkle, visited the School Clinic at the Public Health Department every alternate week on a Thursday morning, to carry out refraction and consultant work.

Mrs. Valerie Roddan, Orthoptist, resigned her appointment with this Authority on 7th July, 1955, and Miss Marilyn F. Brown was appointed Orthoptist to fill the vacancy as from 14th July, 1955. Miss Brown is in charge of the Orthoptic Clinic which is held every Thursday, under the direction of Mr. H. Vernon Ingram and Mr. J. S. Arkle.

During the year, 2,945 children were examined as periodic medical inspections; the general condition of 90.87 per cent was classified "good" and the remainder, 9.13 per cent as "fair". These percentages show an improvement on the results of corresponding examinations in 1954, when the classifications were 82.62 per cent "good"; 17.12 per cent "fair"; 0.26 per cent "poor".

School Clinics were held at the Public Health Department, Preston Road, North Shields, on the following sessions:—

Medical Clinics.

Monday morning, Wednesday morning and afternoon.

Refraction Clinic.

Thursday morning—alternate weeks.

Orthoptic Clinic.

Thursday morning and afternoon.

Ultra Violet Light Clinic.

Tuesday and Friday afternoons.

School Nurse's Clinics for the Treatment of Minor Ailments.

Monday afternoon, Tuesday morning, Wednesday afternoon, Thursday morning and Friday morning.

Dental Clinics

One Dental Clinic was held at the Education Office, The Chase, North Shields, and another at the Royal Jubilee School, Albion Road, North Shields.

Speech Therapy Clinic.

This clinic is held in Queen Victoria School, Coach Lane, North Shields.

In submitting this report, I would like to acknowledge my indebtedness to the Chairman and Members of the School Health Services Sub-Committee, to the Chief Education Officer and to the staff of this Department for their willing help and co-operation, in the interests of the School Health Service, throughout the year.

R. H. DAWSON,
Medical Officer of Health and
Principal School Medical Officer.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

Co-ordination.

Co-ordination with the other Health Services in the Borough has again been maintained, particularly so with the Maternity and Child Welfare Service whose records of pre-school children who have defects are transferred to the School Health Service when children reach the age of 5 years.

Co-operation with the Hospital Services and private practitioners has been consolidated.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Facilities were again made available for diphtheria immunisation at the various Maternity and Child Welfare Centres of the Public Health Department.

During the year, 751 children received a complete course of injections, 100 being school children and 651 pre-school children.

In addition, 711 children of all ages were given reinforcing injections.

It is estimated that at 31st December, 1955, 74.07 per cent of the child population (i.e. children under 15 years of age) had been immunised, as compared with 81.97 per cent. in 1954.

School Meals and Milk.

During 1955, one-day returns showing the number of children having school dinners and milk were taken on a specified day in October.

The total number taking meals was 2,836 of which 441 were free of charge, this former figure being 28.34 per cent of the school roll. The percentage taking school milk was 82.06. Figures for both milk and meals show an increase on last year's totals.

Large quantities of gooseberries, plums and rhubarb were bottled at a very reasonable price. Chutney was also made for the senior children.

The cost of supplying meals has remained high due to the increased cost of provisions, particularly meat and vegetables, the latter being partly due to the prolonged dry weather.

The High School Kitchen Dining Room ceiling was treated with Pyrok to prevent excessive condensation; this has proved to be very satisfactory.

Medical Inspections.

Periodic medical inspections of:—

(a) Entrants—children in their first year of attendance at a maintained primary infant school.

(b) Second age group—children in the last year of attendance at a maintained primary junior school.

(c) Third age group—children in the last year of attendance at a maintained secondary school.

(d) Other routine inspections—children of all ages in attendance at the Special School for educationally subnormal children.

Prior to the periodic medical inspection of the children in these age groups, the schools were visited by a School

Nurse or Health Visitor, who weighed and measured the children and tested their vision, with the exception of those in the "Entrant" group. At the actual inspection the Medical Officer was accompanied by a Nurse. Parents were invited to be present at these inspections, thus affording an opportunity for a parent to discuss with the Medical Officer matters relating to the child's health, and, in the case of children in the "third age group", the future employment of the child.

The percentage of parents who were present at periodic inspections was 68.4 as compared with 68.8 in 1954; 76.9 in 1938 and 76.4 in 1937.

Special inspections and re-inspections were also conducted in each school department once during the year.

Findings of Medical Inspection.

The defects found at periodic medical inspections in the schools and special inspections in the school clinics and schools, which required treatment or to be kept under observation are shown in Table II on page 21. In this table is also recorded a classification of the general condition of children inspected in the age groups. This table reveals that 90.87 per cent were classified "Good" and 9.13 per cent "Fair" as compared with 82.62 per cent "Good", 17.12 per cent "Fair" and 0.26 per cent "Poor" in 1954. It will be noted that not a single child came under the category " Poor" in 1955.

The following table shows the average heights and weights of boy and girl entrants selected at intervals, over a period of years, since periodic medical inspection commenced.

AVERAGE HEIGHTS AND WEIGHTS OF BOY AND GIRL ENTRANTS

(5 Year Old Age Group)

Year	BOY ENTRANTS		GIRL ENTRANTS	
	Average Heights	Average Weights	Average Heights	Average Weights
	ft. ins.	lbs.	ft. ins.	lbs.
1909	3 3.7	37.9	3 3.5	37.5
1918	3 4.7	39.1	3 4.0	38.5
1927	3 5.2	40.1	3 5.0	38.5
1936	3 6.2	41.1	3 6.1	39.3
1945	3 7.0	40.2	3 7.0	41.3
1950	3 7.0	43.1	3 6.5	42.1
1951	3 6.7	43.4	3 6.5	41.7
1952	3 7.3	43.1	3 6.8	41.4
1953	3 7.4	43.0	3 7.8	41.8
1954	3 7.3	43.9	3 6.7	41.7
1955	3 7.5	43.3	3 7.2	41.7

Uncleanliness—Head.

(i) GIRLS. Of the 1,402 girls examined as periodic inspections, 74 or 5.3 per cent were recorded as having nits;

20 or 1.4 per cent of these had a minor infestation only.

(ii) BOYS. Of the 1,543 boys examined as periodic inspections, 13 were recorded as having nits, of these 8 had a minor infestation only.

Surprise Cleanliness Surveys.

In 1955, 19,115 examinations for uncleanliness were made in the schools by the School Nurses and Health Visitors. 852 pupils were found to be infested, 681 of these pupils were issued with cleansing notices. The supervision and treatment of certain children, found to have dirty heads and referred to the School Clinic, was carried out by the School Nurse at the Minor Ailment Clinic.

Follow Up Investigations.

During the year the School Nurses and Health Visitors followed up 451 cases which were under observation or treatment. In this connection 195 home visits were made and 530 inspections were carried out in the schools.

Minor Ailments.

Minor Ailment Clinics were held at the Public Health Department, when a School Nurse was in attendance on five sessions per week for the treatment of children with minor injuries, sores and minor skin conditions, etc., referred from schools or by a medical officer. 371 cases attended the Clinic, and made 2,124 attendances. This compares with 373 cases and 1,983 attendances in 1954, 376 cases and 2,079 attendances in 1953, and 1,143 cases and 8,042 attendances in 1948.

Scabies (Itch).

5 children, as compared with 1 in 1954, were recorded as having received treatment for scabies, 4 were treated at the School Clinic, and 1 elsewhere.

The following table shows the number of cases of scabies treated at the School Clinic for the past twelve consecutive years.

Year	*Number of cases of Scabies treated at the School Clinic*
1944	353
1945	227
1946	136
1947	91
1948	47
1949	7
1950	8
1951	5
1952	13
1953	2
1954	1
1955	4

Ringworm.

1 child, as compared with 1 in 1954, was recorded as having received treatment for ringworm of the scalp. This child was treated apart from the Local Education Authority's Scheme.

4 children, as compared with 5 in 1954, were recorded as having received treatment for ringworm of the body.

Eye Diseases.

31 cases, as compared with 51 in 1954, and 140 in 1950, were recorded as having received treatment, 27 at the School Clinic and 4 elsewhere.

Defective Vision and Squint.

The vision of first year entrants to Primary Junior Schools was checked by a Health Visitor or School Nurse and any child suspected of having a visual defect was referred to a Medical Officer for further investigation.

During the year 175 Forms O.S.C. 10—as compared with 176 in 1954, 129 in 1953 and 84 in 1952—authorising the repair or replacement of spectacles, were issued by the School Medical Officers.

Eye-Testing Clinic.

195 children had their eyes tested at this clinic. For 155 of these, spectacles were prescribed and 149 obtained them. We also have a record of 146 refractions which were carried out apart from the Local Education Authority's Scheme.

Orthoptic Clinic.

This clinic is held morning and afternoon, every Thursday, at the Public Health Department.

The following is a report by the Orthoptist, Miss Marilyn F. Brown, on the work carried out at this clinic during the year 1955.

ORTHOPTIC CLINIC
Report for 1955.

Since the commencement of the Orthoptic Clinic on July 1st, 1954, a total of 108 patients has been registered, 64 of these cases having been registered during the period January 1st—December 31st, 1955.

48 of these patients were referred by the two Consultant Ophthalmologists at this clinic; 7 were referred by a local Ophthalmic Optician, the remaining 9 were transferred from the following hospitals:

The Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle	2
The Fleming Memorial Hospital, Newcastle	1
The Eye Infirmary, Newcastle	2
The Ingham Infirmary, South Shields	4

All these patients were local cases and were transferred to this clinic for their convenience.

A total of 106 patients received treatment during the year. 7 patients were discharged; of these, 3 were cured and will return for periodic refraction checks; 1 was discharged as being cosmetically satisfactory; 1 preferred to continue treatment at the Newcastle Eye Infirmary, and 2 failed to attend. The remaining 99 children continued to attend this clinic for occlusion treatment when necessary, and orthoptic exercises.

14 children were admitted to the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle, for operation, and a further 6 are on the waiting list.

The total attendances of all cases for 1955 amounted to 603.

MARILYN F. BROWN,
Orthoptist.

Defective Hearing.

The Education Authority has established an audiology centre under the direction of a full-time qualified speech therapist (L.C.S.T.) in a school located centrally in the most populous part of the borough.

Prior to June, 1955, when the local Education Authority acquired an audiometer, children who required audiometric investigation were referred to the Ear, Nose and Throat Department of one of the local hospitals, by arrangement with the Hospital Management Committee.

Children suspected of having defects in hearing by school teachers, school medical staff or by members of the staff of the Maternity and Child Welfare Department, in the case of children about to enter school, are now referred to the speech therapist who, after thorough investigation of the cases, makes the appropriate recommendations with regard to treatment, etc.

We have a record of 7 children who use a hearing aid —3 of these were obtained in 1955.

Ear Defects.

26 of the 34 cases dealt with were cases of chronic suppurative otitis media.

Nose and Throat Defects.

During the period under review we have a record of 112 children who received operative treatment for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis.

Orthopædic and Postural Defects.

Of the 66 children recorded as having received treatment for orthopædic and postural defects, 10 were treated as in-patients and 56 as out-patients.

The in-patients were treated for the following defects:—

Defects	*No. of Cases*
Contracture of Thumb, following burns	1
Congenital Shortening Right Leg	1
Fracture	1
Old Poliomyelitis	2
Old Poliomyelitis and Tuberculosis of Hip	1
Semi-membranous Bursa	1
Spastic Quadriplegia	1
Talipes	2

The 56 children who received out-patient treatment suffered from the following defects:—

Defects	*No. of Cases*
Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita	1
Bone or Joint Tuberculosis—Quiescent	3
Cerebral Palsy	1
Cerebral Ataxia and Apraxia	1
Congenital Dislocation Hip	1
Disease of foot-bone	1
Deformed Toes	2
Dislocated Hip	1
Flat-feet	12
Fractures	6
Hemiplegia	1
Injured foot	1
Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis	1
Knock Knee	2
Osteo-chondritis of Left Tibial Tubercle	1
Osteo-chondral-Dystrophy	2
Old Poliomyelitis	5
Osteitis following Acute Arthritis	1
Rheumatism	5
Scoliosis	2
Spastic Paraplegia	1
Supernumerary Digits—Left Foot	1
Spastic Hemiplegia	1
Talipes	2
Tuberculosis of Knee	1

Other Defects Treated.

Other defects treated, not falling into the classification mentioned in Table IV, Groups 1—6 may be seen by referring

to page 24, Group 7. Of the 213 miscellaneous minor ailments treated at the School Clinic, 68 were minor injuries and 128 were sores.

Infectious Diseases.

An extract from the Head Teachers' weekly returns of Infectious and Other Diseases for the past ten years is as follows:—

DISEASE	YEAR									
	1946	*1947*	*1948*	*1949*	*1950*	*1951*	*1952*	*1953*	*1954*	*1955*
Scarlet Fever ..	48	18	47	27	55	33	22	35	20	25
Diphtheria ..	32	5	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	401	80	317	245	277	302	301	359	17	481
German Measles..	50	15	12	107	28	21	500	36	22	21
Whooping Cough	136	78	105	70	164	105	84	213	71	157
Chicken Pox ..	174	353	279	123	392	693	503	320	493	150
Mumps	20	192	490	25	20	881	181	336	123	342
Ringworm ..	2	5	6	10	16	17	11	6	10	10
Impetigo	57	35	28	40	16	23	21	19	87	223
Scabies	46	45	17	5	10	9	4	2	1	7
Verminous Conditions ..	12	8	18	15	7	14	9	10	9	12

From the above figures it will be seen that Measles, Whooping Cough and Mumps were prevalent during the year under review. The number of cases of impetigo had also noticeably increased.

I have pleasure in submitting the Thirty-First Report on School Dental Inspection and Treatment.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL DENTAL OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 1955.

I have pleasure in submitting my Eighteenth Annual Report on the School Dental Inspections and Treatment for the year ending 31st December, 1955, this being the Thirty-first Annual Report.

The following is a brief description of the clinical work undertaken during the year and further details are given in the full statistics to be seen elsewhere in this publication.

An important change and improvement in the School Dental Service was achieved with the opening of a second Clinic in February and the appointment of an Assistant Dental Officer, Mr. R. E. O. Waddell, B.D.S., and a second Dental Attendant, Miss D. Klotz. The new Clinic at Jubilee School, Albion Road, has been equipped in modern style and very satisfactory results are being obtained from the Staff. At both Clinics Routine Dental Inspections and Treatment proceeded as in former years with a continued increase in

the number of operations performed under general anaesthesia, the services of the Anaesthetist, Dr. J. R. Steadman, being of great value and assistance to the clinical work.

During the Routine Inspections in the Primary and Secondary Schools, 5,426 pupils were examined. Of this number, 2,209 required treatment and the acceptance rate by the parents was 70.5 per cent.

The Dental Inspection of Expectant Mothers and Pre-School Children continued each Monday afternoon in the Public Health Department and where the children required treatment appointments were made for this to be undertaken at the School Clinics. A total of 149 Pre-School Children and 39 Adults were examined during the year.

Measures to prevent calcium deficiency by the distribution of various calcium products are still proving to be of great value both to the dentition and the general health of the children.

At a Routine Inspection of pupils attending the Tynemouth High (Grammar) School in September, 704 examinations were made. Of this number, 275 pupils required some form of dental treatment. Attendances for treatment numbered 101 and the work undertaken included 39 fillings, 74 extractions and 16 other operations.

The Open-Air Day School and Lovaine House Special Day School were inspected in December when 90 children were examined. During the year 33 attendances were made for treatment at the Clinic.

Other forms of treatment included an increased amount of Orthodontic work for the correction of misplaced teeth, the fitting of artificial dentures, all forms of gum treatment and the scaling and cleaning of teeth. A total of 1,297 other operations were performed at the Clinics during the year.

In conclusion thanks are due to the School Medical Staff, the Dental Anaesthetist and Assistant Dental Officer, the School Dental Attendants and all the Teaching Staffs for their valued assistance.

(Signed) RICHARD W. ESSENHIGH.
Principal School Dental Officer.

Handicapped Pupils.

Below is shown the number of children in the various categories of "Handicapped Pupils" belonging to the area of this Authority, who were receiving their education in special schools at the end of the year 1955.

Blind Pupils	3 in a residential school.
Partially Sighted Pupils	1 in a residential school and 1 in the Tynemouth Open-Air Day School.
Deaf Pupils	7 in a residential school.

Delicate Pupils	39 in the Tynemouth Open-Air Day School.
Physically Handicapped Pupils	12 in the Tynemouth Open-Air Day School; 1 in attendance as a day pupil at a special school for spastic children; 1 in a residential school.
Educationally Sub-Normal Pupils ...	47 in the Lovaine House Special Day School and 1 in a residential school.
Maladjusted Pupils ...	2 in the Tynemouth Open-Air Day School.
Epileptic Pupils ...	1 in the Tynemouth Open-Air Day School.

Speech Therapy.

I have pleasure in submitting a report by Miss D. Dobie the Speech Therapist, who is in charge of the Local Education Authority's Speech Therapy Clinic.

SPEECH THERAPY CLINIC

During the year, 145 children were treated at the Speech Therapy Clinic, their attendances totalling 1,980.

Of these, 47 were discharged after excellent progress, 37 were placed on review for periods ranging from four weeks to six months. 4 left school with treatment incomplete, 4 left the area, and in two cases treatment was discontinued, the child having progressed as far as was thought possible.

The incidence of stammering was again high—58 are having treatment—67 children were treated for defects of articulation, 12 retarded language development, 4 voice disturbances, and 4 cleft palate speech.

With the welcome addition of an audiometer, 16 children received audiometer tests—4 of these children were found to require hearing aids—the others received treatment for hearing loss at Preston Hospital.

The great majority of children attended regularly with their parents—it is found that good home co-operation can halve a treatment period.

In one or two cases where treatment at home was difficult, e.g. deaf parent, the teacher, at my request, undertook the daily practice with the child, with excellent results.

4 parents denied their children the right to treatment by failing to attend the clinic when sent for. These children will continue through their school life handicapped. Must the child suffer because of these selfish parents?

DOROTHY DOBIE,
Speech Therapist.

Tynemouth Open-Air Day School and Lovaine House Special Day School.

Regular visits were again paid to the Open-Air Day School by the Assistant Medical Officer of Health and a Health Visitor. 175 re-examinations were carried out by the Medical Officer to check on children's progress and to ascertain when they were fit to return to an ordinary school.

Of the 11 children referred for examination with a view to admission to Lovaine House Special Day School, it was recommended that 5 should continue their education in an ordinary school; the remaining 6 children, plus 1 child examined in 1954, were admitted to the Special School during the year.

One child gained her transfer from Lovaine House Special Day School for Educationally Sub-Normal children to a Secondary Modern School.

I have pleasure in submitting the Reports of the Head Mistress, Miss E. McRitchie, giving details of the work of the two Special Schools.

TYNEMOUTH OPEN-AIR DAY SCHOOL
Report for 1955.

Another year of quiet steady progress can be reported for 1955. The very fine weather of the past Summer was much appreciated, and many lessons were given out in the open.

At the beginning of the year there were 61 names on the roll, 26 boys and 35 girls. During the year 16 children, 4 boys and 12 girls were admitted, and one girl who had been away from the district was re-admitted. A total of 23 children, 9 boys and 14 girls, was discharged.

The average number on the roll for the year was 63 and the average attendance 49 or 77.7 per cent.

The ailments of the children admitted during the year may be classified:—

Admitted by the School Medical Officer:—

General Debility with or without accompanying defects	4
Cerebral Ataxia and Apraxia	1
Asthmatic Tendency. Chronic Bronchitis	1
Osteo-chondritis of Left Tibial Tubercle	1
Maladjustment	1
Suspected Tuberculous Neck Glands	1
Probably Poliomyelitis at 9 or 10 months of age	1
Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita	1
Immaturity	1
Poliomyelitis	1
Optic Atrophy	1
Total	14

Admitted by the Chest Physician—

Primary Tuberculosis Inactive	1
Quiescent Primary Tuberculosis	1
Tuberculosis contact—delicate child	1
Total	3

Children discharged by the School Medical Officer during the year may be divided into the following groups:—

Transferred to Primary or Secondary Modern Schools as fit after medical examination	10
Left at age 15 years	3
Left the district	2
Transferred to Northern Counties School for Deaf ...	1
Removed to hospital	1
Ineducable—Removed to Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital	1
Deceased	1
Total	19

The duration of their stay in the Open-Air School is—

Length of Stay	*Number of Children*
9 to 10 years	2
5 to 6 years	1
4 to 5 years	1
3 to 4 years	4
2 to 3 years	1
1 to 2 years	6
Under 1 year	4
Total	19

Children discharged by Chest Physician—

Transferred to Primary or Secondary Modern Schools as fit after medical examination	3
Left at age 15 years	1
Total	4

The period of time spent in the Open-Air School by these children is:—

Duration of Stay	*Number of Children*
4 to 5 years	1
3 to 4 years	1
1 to 2 years	2
	4

Medical supervision of the children was again very well maintained by Dr. M. B. Steel, Assistant Medical Officer of Health, who carried out monthly medical examinations and by Dr. F. G. Connor Walker, Chest Physician, who also visited at regular intervals to examine Chest Clinic cases. Minor ailments were treated by the health visitor.

The usual routine dental examination was carried out by the Dental Officer, and many children were treated throughout the year.

Several children with speech defects attended the Speech Therapy Clinic.

The proposed improvements to the school have not yet been carried out, but we look forward to having them completed in the very near future. Again this year, during the winter months, the hall has been used for the midday rest period.

Very attractive new stackable tables and chairs have been provided for meals.

Routine arrangements with regard to provision of meals, milk under the Milk in Schools Scheme, transport of children, bathing and weighing were as usual.

Teaching staff changes took place in the Autumn term. It was with very deep regret that we learned that Miss J. Bewick had tendered her resignation owing to ill-health, and acting on medical advice has gone to live in the South of England. May she have a speedy return to good health to enable her to continue in special school work for which she is so well fitted.

Mrs. E. Wiseman very ably filled the post until Christmas. Mrs. E. Maw has been appointed to the permanent staff from 1st January, 1956. We wish her much happiness and success in her new work.

Miss E. Wardhaugh was appointed to the post of bath and bus attendant in February, since when she has given valuable service.

On Empire Day we were very pleased to welcome the Civic Party. The children of the Open-Air School and Lovaine House Special School united to give a display for the visitors.

Several of the children are indebted to the Invalid Children's Aid Association for a happy fortnight's holiday at Marske.

In concluding this report I wish to place on record my sincere appreciation of the valuable assistance and advice I have had from the School Medical Staff and the Dental Officer, and of the loyal and willing help I have had throughout the year from all connected with the school.

E. McRITCHIE,
Headmistress.

LOVAINE HOUSE SPECIAL DAY SCHOOL
Report for 1955.

After admitting one child on the first morning the roll was 51, 32 boys and 19 girls. Including this first admission the number of children admitted throughout the year was 7, 5 boys and 2 girls. There were 8 discharges, 2 boys and 6 girls. The average number on the roll for the year was 52, and the average attendance was 46 or 88.4 per cent.

The children discharged may be divided into the following groups:—

Left at age of 16 years	6	(1 boy and 5 girls)
Transferred to Secondary Modern School	1	girl
Left district	1	boy
Total	8	

The children on the roll on the last school day of the year may be divided into the following grades:—

Intelligence Quotients	80 or over		70 to 79		60 to 69		50 to 59		Below 50	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Number of children in each grade	5	1	13	2	12	7	6	4	—	2
	6		15		19		10		2	

Teaching in schools for educationally sub-normal children is very exacting and this brought difficulties in staffing again this year. A teacher was appointed in January, but felt unable to carry on and resigned in February. No other teacher was available, therefore I have been in charge of a class for the greater part of the year. Endeavouring also to organise both special schools has been exhausting, but nevertheless being in such close contact with the children has given me a deeper understanding of their needs.

Once again to Miss Bailey and Mrs. Sherrington, I owe a real debt of gratitude for their loyal co-operation.

We have been fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr. J. Collingwood who commences duties after the Christmas vacation. We hope that he will be happy in his new sphere of work.

A brief visit of H.M. Inspector Mr. Cave and Dr. Weaver gave us pleasure and help.

Routine medical and dental examinations were carried out as usual and minor ailments were treated by the Health Visitor.

Arrangements for mid-day meals, milk under the Milk in Schools Scheme, and conveyance of children by bus were unchanged.

The two members of the domestic staff now supervise the children for approximately an hour after the mid-day meal, and this has enabled the teaching staff to have a short break away from the children, so very necessary in this type of school.

During the summer holidays alterations to the Domestic Room took place. It was enlarged and modernised and is much more suitable for domestic science lessons.

Gas heaters have been installed in two of the class-rooms, and have proved invaluable.

Delightful new chairs and tables have ben supplied for meals, and these have made the hall look more attractive.

Some of the older boys enjoyed swimming instruction during the summer term, one of them gaining a certificate.

On July 8th we took all the children on a school outing by bus to Plankey Mill near Allendale. The weather was perfect and experiencing no mishaps, we returned tired but happy.

In concluding this report, I wish to record my appreciation of the excellent co-operation and willing service rendered by all connected with the school.

E. McRITCHIE,
Headmistress.

TYNEMOUTH HIGH (GRAMMAR) SCHOOL

Periodic inspections were carried out in respect of 126 pupils in attendance at the Tynemouth High (Grammar) School. 77 pupils were also re-examined at the time of the Medical Officer's visit to the school.

Nursery Schools.

Arrangements for the medical inspection of children attending the Sir James Knott Nursery School at Tynemouth, and the Howdon Road Nursery School at North Shields, continued as in past years.

The schools were again visited regularly by the Honorary Medical Officer, every child being seen once; special cases were seen more frequently. The Health Visitors for the areas paid frequent visits to the two Nursery Schools, weekly when possible.

Miscellaneous Medical Examinations.

160 children were medically examined in accordance with the Children and Young Persons Act 1933; employment certificates were granted in all cases.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

Statistical tables required by the Ministry of Education follow.

MEDICAL INSPECTION RETURNS

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955

TABLE I.

Medical Inspection of Pupils attending Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools (including Special Schools).

(This return refers to a complete calendar year.)

A.—Periodic Medical Inspections.

Age Groups inspected and Number of Children examined in each:

Entrants	1,259
Second Age Group	909
Third Age Group	712
Total	2,880
Additional Periodic Inspections	65
Grand Total	2,945

B.—Other Inspections.

Number of Special Inspections	403
Number of Re-inspections	1,860
Total	2,263

C.—Pupils Found to Require Treatment.

Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to Require Treatment (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin).

Age Groups Inspected.	For defective vision (excluding squint).	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table IIA.	Total *individual* pupils.
Entrants	10	150	155
Second Age Group	113	79	183
Third Age Group	69	22	90
Total	192	251	428
Additional Periodic Inspections	6	2	7
Grand Total	198	253	435

TABLE II.

A.—Return of Defects Found by Medical Inspection in the Year Ended 31st December, 1955.

Defect Code No.	Defect or Disease	Periodic Inspections		Special Inspections	
		No. of defects		No. of defects	
		Requiring Treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment	Requiring Treatment	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment
4	Skin	18	4	20	—
5	Eyes: *a.* Vision ..	198	5	96	24
	b. Squint ..	107	1	24	—
	c. Other ..	6	—	4	1
6	Ears: *a.* Hearing	3	5	7	3
	b. Otitis Media	20	—	7	—
	c. Other ..	—	2	5	—
7	Nose or Throat..	40	41	23	11
8	Speech	14	7	11	1
9	Cervical Glands..	—	—	6	—
10	Heart & Circul't'n	1	21	2	1
11	Lungs	11	22	12	4
12	Developmental:				
	a. Hernia ..	2	2	—	—
	b. Other ..	4	10	3	2
13	Orthopædic:				
	a. Posture ..	1	1	—	—
	b. Flat Foot	5	—	2	3
	c. Other ..	17	5	12	2
14	Nervous System:				
	a. Epilepsy	1	2	1	—
	b. Other ..	6	2	8	6
15	Psychological:				
	a. Development	—	2	8	4
	b. Stability ..	—	—	—	1
16	Other	16	19	61	9

B.—Classification of the General Condition of Pupils Inspected During the Year in the Age Groups.

Age Groups Inspected	Number of Pupils Inspected	A (Good)		B (Fair)		C (Poor)	
		No.	% of col. 2	No.	% of col. 2	No.	% of col. 2
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Entrants	1,259	1,128	89.59	131	10.41	—	—
Second Age Group ..	909	822	90.43	87	9.57	—	—
Third Age Group	712	673	94.52	39	5.48	—	—
Additional Periodic Inspections ..	65	53	81.54	12	18.46	—	—
Total ..	2,945	2,676	90.87	269	9.13	—	—

TABLE III.

INFESTATION WITH VERMIN.

(i)	Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons	19,115
(ii)	Total number of *individual* pupils found to be infested ..	852
(iii)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2), Education Act, 1944) ..	681
(iv)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (3), Education Act, 1944) ..	—

TABLE IV.

TREATMENT TABLES.

GROUP 1.—DISEASES OF THE SKIN (excluding uncleanliness, for which see Table III).

	Number of cases treated or under treatment during the year	
	by the Authority	otherwise
Ringworm—(i) Scalp	—	1
(ii) Body	3	1
Scabies	4	1
Impetigo	25	4
Other skin diseases	49	31
Total ..	81	38

GROUP 2.—EYE DISEASES, DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT.

	Number of cases dealt with	
	by the Authority	otherwise
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	27	4
Errors of refraction (including squint)	301	177
Total ..	328	181
Number of pupils for whom spectacles were		
(*a*) Prescribed	155	142
(*b*) Obtained	149	142

GROUP 3.—DISEASES AND DEFECTS OF EAR, NOSE AND THROAT.

	Number of cases treated	
	by the Authority	otherwise
Received operative treatment (*a*) for diseases of the ear	—	—
(*b*) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis ..	—	112
(*c*) for other nose and throat conditions ..	—	—
Received other forms of treatment	16	32
Total ..	16	144

GROUP 4.—ORTHOPÆDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS.

(*a*) Number treated as in-patients in hospitals ..	10	
	by the Authority	otherwise
(*b*) Number treated otherwise, *e.g.*, in clinics or out-patient departments ..	10	46

GROUP 5.—CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT.

	Number of cases treated	
	In the Authority's Child Guidance Clinics	elsewhere
Number of Pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics ...	—	2

GROUP 6.—SPEECH THERAPY.

	Number of cases treated	
	by the Authority	otherwise
Number of Pupils treated by Speech Therapists	145	3

GROUP 7.—OTHER TREATMENT GIVEN.

	Number of cases treated	
	by the Authority	otherwise
(*a*) Miscellaneous minor ailments	213	15
(*b*) Other than (*a*) above—		
Cardio-Vascular and Blood Conditions	3	5
Respiratory Conditions ..	12	27
Abdominal Conditions ..	—	15
Nervous System	3	16
Miscellaneous Conditions..	52	31
Total ..	283	109

TABLE V.

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT CARRIED OUT BY THE AUTHORITY.

(1)	Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers:	
	(*a*) At Periodic Inspections	6,130
	(*b*) As Specials	554
	TOTAL (1)	6,684
(2)	Number found to require treatment	3,556
(3)	Number offered treatment	3,454
(4)	Number actually treated	2,578
(5)	Attendances made by pupils for treatment	6,673
(6)	Half-days devoted to: Periodic Inspection	24
	Treatment	857
	TOTAL (6)	881
(7)	Fillings: Permanent Teeth	2,350
	Temporary Teeth	259
	TOTAL (7)	2,609
(8)	Number of teeth filled: Permanent Teeth	2,006
	Temporary Teeth	209
	TOTAL (8)	2,215
(9)	Extractions: Permanent Teeth	1,418
	Temporary Teeth	5,354
	TOTAL (9)	6,772
(10)	Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction ..	1,745
(11)	Other Operations: Permanent Teeth	595
	Temporary Teeth	702
	TOTAL (11)	1,297